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## Marshall Digital Scholar

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Honors Oracle

Honors College

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5-2020

### Honors Oracle, May 2020

Marshall University Honors College

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# Honors Oracle

Marshall University's Honors College newsletter • May 2020

*Dear Reader of the Honors Oracle,*

*As we, at the Oracle, send out our final issue of the spring 2020 semester, I would like to take a moment to wish you well. The COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging for many individuals in a number of ways.*

*The Honors Oracle staff has tried to keep safely working during this pandemic in order to bring our readers quality content and maintain a sense of normalcy at this time of change.*

*In this issue, we were not able to include all of the stories that our reporters have written due to concerns over the timeliness of our stories and other limitations imposed by the pandemic; however, we are proud of all of our staff members for keeping up their hard work.*

*Within this issue, you will see a date on each story. Each story reflects information that was gathered on and/or before that date and the circumstances present at that time.*

*Though some circumstances may have changed, I have faith that these stories accurately represent the time that they were written and/or submitted to us and am glad to share them with you.*

*Thank you for taking the time to view our newsletter, and I hope that you and your loved ones are able to stay safe and persevere as we get through this challenging time together.*

*Sincerely,  
Jesten Richardson, Executive  
Editor of the Honors Oracle*

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## Marshall community feels COVID-19 effects

*Editor's Note: This article was written on April 14.*

By KYLIE JOHNSON

As the end of the school year draws near for Marshall University and its students, two daughters of Marshall are facing different sides of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on their daily lives.

"We get so used to a certain way of life that when something changes, we often find it hard to adapt," said Shealyn Shafer, a Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine student.

Shafer explained how other than the transition to online curriculum, not much has changed for the medical students. Some clinical skills exams and

mentor hours are being missed out on, but Shafer said both professors and Student Affairs have

**"Following the guidelines is the most crucial way to keep everyone safe."**

**-Shealyn Shafer**

adapted quickly and have been essential in making the transition as easy as possible.

"Following the guidelines is the most crucial way to keep everyone safe," Shafer said. "Staying home doesn't just

keep family safe, but also those in the community as well... and as a future physician, I feel as though

it is my duty to encourage others to do the same."

As for West Virginia and the future of COVID-19, Shafer said finding a treatment for the virus and the development of a vaccine will be crucial. She stays positive by constantly

looking at the bright side of things.

"We have been given time to enjoy our surroundings and spend time at home that we all frequently long for... so even though we have missed out on some important things because of COVID-19, we all have a lot to be thankful for," Shafer said.

In a different role, Marshall alumna and RN Carley StClair is working on the front line of this virus. Working at Charleston Area Medical Center in the intensive care unit, StClair is currently not directly exposed to the patients coming in with COVID-19, but if the

see COVID on pg. 2

# Student athlete spotlight: Blass Morrone

*Editor's Note: This article was written on Feb. 22.*

By KYLIE JOHNSON

Marshall University cheerleading captain and biochemistry major Blass Morrone said she decided to join the Honors College to hold herself to a higher academic standard.

Morrone said being in the Honors College has pushed her to become a more well-rounded student and to improve her critical thinking skills and diligence for her schoolwork.

Morrone has cheered for nearly 20 years and has been a part of the Marshall cheerleading squad for all four years as an undergraduate student. Along with being an athlete and student, Morrone works part-time at The Union Pub & Grill, shadows physicians at local hospitals and spends her free time at home with her family.

Through the Honors College, Morrone jumped at an early opportunity to join a research position and has taken several HON 480 seminars that set challenges outside of her comfort zone. She said these experiences allowed her to gain knowledge on various topics and strengthened her communication skills.

"I am very thankful for the windows the Honors College has opened for me," Morrone said. "Cheering at Marshall University has also given me op-

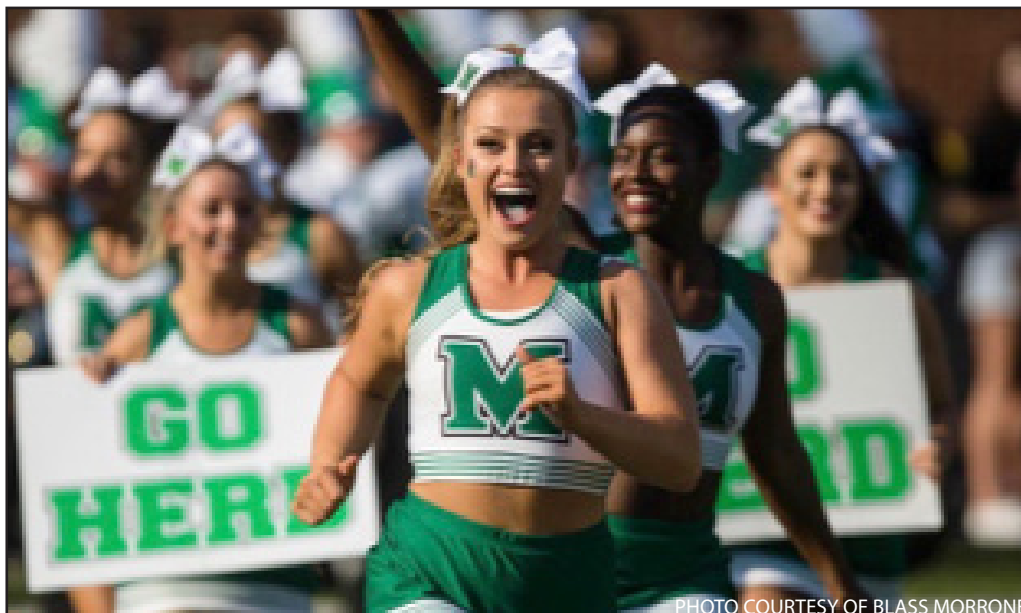


PHOTO COURTESY OF BLASS MORRONE

portunities I would not have gotten as a traditional student... I have gained significant time management skills which will benefit me with a career in the medical field."

Morrone recently received her acceptance letter to the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, which she plans to attend in the fall. She said she hopes to pursue a career in sports medicine or emergency medicine.

Some college students struggle to find a balance between classes and extracurriculars, but Morrone quickly discovered a way to juggle both.

She said one of her biggest accomplishments was placing third (in a division) at the 2018 NCA College Nationals championship while another

was her acceptance into medical school.

Being an honors student athlete involves hard work and dedication. Morrone credits her success to the Honors College, Marshall's cheerleading team and her friends and family. "Personal connections are debatably the most important things in life and remembering to appreciate those moments while (you're) here is crucial," Morrone said.

Morrone said she will never forget the feeling of cheering the memorial 75 football game every November, and one of her main goals is to make Marshall proud by giving everything she can while given the opportunity to do so.

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## COVID cont. from 1

numbers increase, her unit will be next up for housing those infected.

"Every nurse has to wear a reusable mask in all patient care areas, extra disinfecting measures have been put in place and certain floors of the hospital are designated

for possible COVID-19 patients," StClair said. No visitations are allowed unless completely necessary, and much like Shafer, StClair said the CDC guidelines should be followed to keep everyone safe.

"I have to change my

clothes before I leave work, and I take off my shoes before entering my house," she said. "I haven't visited my parents or grandparents... our population has a large number of elderly residents, so it is important to protect our most vulnerable."

StClair said this pandemic will open the eyes of many, showing just how much something as simple as handwashing can affect the spread of diseases, and she believes the United States will be more prepared for the next pandemic.



# ***"Honorable Mention"***

## Brooke Howerton

By JESTEN RICHARDSON

*Editor's Note: This story was submitted on March 7*

**Connection to the Honors College:** Member since 2017

**Class Level:** Third year

**Major:** Psychology

**Hometown:** Lesage, West Virginia

**Passions:** Anything musical, singing in choir, traveling, new adventures, cross-stitching, Catan

**A Word She Would Use to Describe Herself:** Ambitious

**Involvement on Campus:** On leadership with Cru, attends Marshall University events

**Community Involvement:** Singing in the choir at her church, working on psychological research in Huntington

**Awards:** Dean's List since 2017

**Favorite Marshall Memories So Far:** A karaoke night during her freshman year where she met her boyfriend, every Cru meeting, going to student functions, like the movies on the fields, and bonding with friends

**Proudest Accomplishments:** Being able to maintain her social health, school, working a job and pushing herself to explore new opportunities, having a balanced existence at this point in her life

**Hopes for the Semester:** To do well in her classes, to get experience working in Huntington through her research, to start building connections with local resources, to build better connections in general



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BROOKE HOWERTON



Know someone you'd like to nominate for "Honorable Mention"? Contact [richardso164@marshall.edu](mailto:richardso164@marshall.edu)!

# Tips for choosing honor societies: what to look for

*Editor's Note: This story was submitted on March 9.*

By ISABELLA BOOTH

For an accomplished student at Marshall University, receiving emails or a letter about joining an honor society may be a frequent occurrence. These emails or letters may promise prestige and recognition after graduation, as well as a connection to the network of highly successful people who are supposedly a member of that same society.

It can sometimes be difficult for students to tell the difference between legitimate honor society invitations and fraudulent ones.

One important aspect to be able to distinguish a professional honor society from an obscure one is a professional society is certified and recognized by the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS). According to its website, the ACHS was created in 1925 to maintain the distinction of honor societies from more fraudulent organizations.

The ACHS has several ways it judges the credibility of claimed honor societies. The first sign the ACHS uses to judge the credibility of an honor

society is its merit requirements. According to the ACHS, honor societies typically have high standards for their members; therefore, a 3.2 to 3.3 GPA average is most commonly the minimum GPA requirement for an honor society. Most legitimate societies also want their members to rank in the top 20 to 35% of their class.

Another tell-tale sign to see if the society is professional is if the honor society is recognized as a 501(c)3 organization, which means that it is a nonprofit organization. There should also be full financial transparency between the member and the organization.

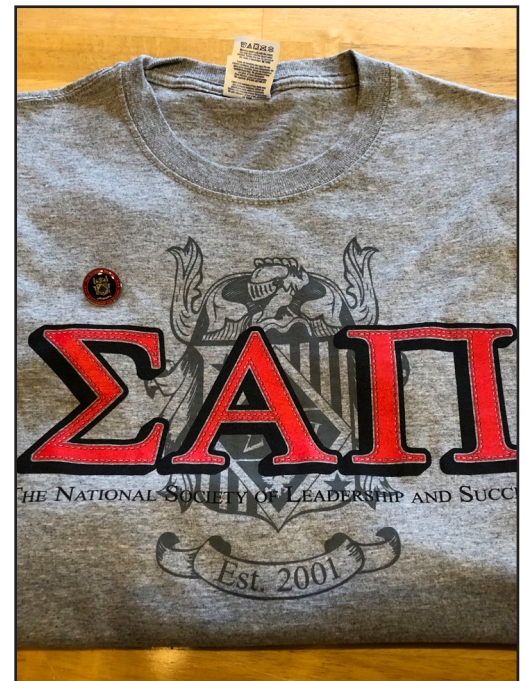
The Association of College Honor Societies also highlights that an organization's website should include by-laws, criteria and benefits of membership and the fee of the membership, as well as policies and procedures.

The ACHS warns against some signs that put into question the credibility of an honor society. These signs include a lack of information on the website, unclear eligibility requirements and online applications. According to the ACHS, all certified societies send invitations to

candidates from their established chapters.

Also, if there is no proof of a non-profit status, this should be a warning sign to students.

Student concerned about whether or not the invitation they have received is prestigious or fraudulent can visit <https://achsnatl.org/> for a full list of certified societies, as well as other resources to distinguish the difference.



JESTEN RICHARDSON | EXECUTIVE EDITOR

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